

This conversation, related to me by Duroc, interested me so much that I noted it down on paper immediately after my interview.²

to why she was so anxious to place herself under his tyranny. Napoleon knew her as a clever, meddling, ambitious woman, and he prevented her from stirring up political strife in Paris at a time when the land called for internal even more than for external peace. As Napoleon said to Metternich, "If Madame de Staël would be, or could be, either a Royalist or a publican, I should have nothing to say against her: but she is a machine: motion which will make a disturbance in the *salons*. It is only in France that such a woman is to be feared, and I will not agree to it (her return) (*Metternich*, tome i, p. 281).

² After the fall of Bonaparte Auguste de Staël became an orator and political writer of high reputation. See his *Œuvres diverses*, Paris, 1829.